

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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Secretary

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Commissioner

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES ("MDAR") HEREBY GIVES NOTICE OF A GENERAL HEARING, PURSUANT TO M.G.L. C.30A, § 2 and 950 CMR 20.04 which requires the Commissioner of the Department of Agricultural Resources to hold a public hearing for the permanent rescission of the following regulations: 331 CMR 2.00: Designation of Natural Milk Marketing Areas; 331 CMR 4.00: Fixing Minimum Prices Paid to Natural Milk Producers; 331 CMR 6.00 Monthly Payments; Periodic Reports; Minimum Prices Paid; 331 CMR 7.00: Determination of Milk Fat Content in Milk or Cream; and 331 CMR 8.00: Prices and Rules for Milk Dealers ("Regulations").

Rescission of the Regulations will have no effect on the dairy industry because the Department no longer exercises the regulatory authority contained therein. Additionally, the milk marketing activities that are the subject of the Regulations are addressed by federal regulations and through the United States Federal Milk Marketing Order. In the event that the Federal Milk Marketing Order were to be amended or repealed, the Department may need to adopt new regulations in accordance with existing or new statutory authority and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A.

All persons desiring to provide oral testimony are hereby notified to appear on the following dates and times at the respective designated locations:

100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA, 2nd Floor Conference Room B, for a public hearing to be held on August 18, 2016 from 12:00 PM-1:00 PM.

In addition to oral testimony, written comments will be accepted before and at the Hearing. MDAR will continue to accept written comments until August 18, 2016 at 5:00 P.M. Written comments should be addressed to Tara Zadeh, Division of Legal Services General Counsel, Department of Agricultural Resources, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114.

The full texts of the Regulations are available at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/proposed-amendments-to-regulations.html>. Hard copies and full text of the Regulations and background information are also available upon written request made to Tara Zadeh.

By: John Lebeaux, Commissioner.